

STRAY THOUGHTS.

Down by the river side they met,
Sweet Romeo and Juliet;
Her hand in his he placed and said,
"Sweet Juliet, I would thee wed."
"Indeed," she cried, "Alas! let's go
get in this boat. Oh! how me oh!"

—*Roma Sentinel.*

A certain young woman named Sarah
Once drank of the waters of Merath—
"One glass is enough
Of this horrible stuff."
Cried this wretched young woman named Sarah.
It is said that the wisp was the original
"end man."

A corn dodger—A man who avoids
wearing tight boots.

There are eighty-two Mormon churches
in England and Ireland.

The nearest fixed star is calculated to be
at least 35,000,000 miles from this earth.

A Texas dog was born without a tail,
and he will sit down right beside an old
kettle.

The famous copper mine of Falun,
in Sweden, has been worked for a thousand
years.

A tract of 50,000 acres on the Northern
Pacific railroad has been bought for a
colony from Belfast, Ireland.

Porter, standing on the door: "Get up
right off, I say, or you'll be too late. The
train's been gone this last half hour."

That rock and rye was a favorite tipple
in the olden days we know from the fact
that David put a little rock in his sling.

A rattlesnake eight feet long and twelve
inches in circumference has been sent to
the Smithsonian Institution from Florida.

All youths are not fitted for a college
education. It is not best to make a one-
story brain try to carry a three-story educa-
tion.

General Hancock, when he was at West
Point, was the smallest boy in his class.
He is now the heaviest officer in the army,
being not far from 300 pounds.

The first locomotive built in America
for actual service was called "Best Friend,"
and was constructed for the Charleston
(S. C.) and Augusta Railroad Company.

A tailor, who was giving his pet dog
some medicine to cure him of asthma, on
being asked by a friend what he was do-
ing, replied: "I'm mending my dog's
pants."

"You don't look much tanned," was
said to a young man who had just had a
week's yachting. "Well, no," he answer-
ed. "The fact is, we couldn't see the sun
for the fog."

Summer smelt-fishing has been poor.
That is to say, there has been a good deal
of fishing, and but few fish caught. It is
said to the mackerel driving the smelts
away from their accustomed haunts.

The Syracuse Standard says the editor's
country seat is in the sanctum. He would
sometimes be glad to exchange it for a seat
in some vast wilderness, with a boundless
contingency of shade trees and tobacco.

Commissioner—Did you hear the whistle
of the boat you ran down? Pilot—
Hay? Commissioner—Did you hear the
whistle of the boat you ran down? Pilot—
No, sir. Commissioner—Why not?
Pilot—Cuz I'm deaf.

A politician who attended a banquet the
other night, when asked what he had for
supper, named ten kinds of liquors, and
said he forgot the rest of the bill of fare;
he thought there was something else—
Washington Journal.

The term God's acre, applied to burial-
grounds, "Acker," however, in German,
does not mean acre, but field. It is the
field of God, and not nine hundred and
sixty square rods or perches.

Speculators will do well to paste this bit
of philosophy as propounded by Josh Bil-
lings: "All that I know about good or bad
luck is this—Our good luck we attribute to
our shrewdness; our bad luck we charge
over to somebody else's account."

A party of Sybarites extended their sup-
per far into the night. At all once one of
them asked the waiter what time it was.
He looked at his watch, and seeing that it
was past midnight, exclaimed, "It is no
longer to-day—it is to-morrow morning."

"What is your occupation?" asked the
Court, as the prisoner stood up. "I am a
manufacturer said the three-card monte
man. "And what do you make?" asked the
Court. "Wagers," calmly replied the
prisoner. Sixty days.—*Burlington Hawk-
eye.*

A "Saturday to Monday" ticket from
Rome to Vesuvius is now "all the go" in
the Eternal City, and a large restaurant
has been established on the mountain at
the foot of the cone, for the benefit of ex-
cursionists, to which a telegraph-office is
attached.

At a recent emigration convention in
Iowa the fact was set forth that while the
north-western portion of that State is ex-
ceedingly prosperous, there still remain
hundreds of thousands of acres upon to
settlement of from three dollars to ten
dollars per acre.

"Naahy" takes pride in the service of
his father and grandfather, in one way and
another. As for himself, he says: "My
own military record is clear. In the late
rebellion I served by substitute, I furnish-
ed three substitutes, all of whom to-day
are in good health—in Canada."

"What earthly use is it," exclaimed a
languid Washington swell the other morn-
ing, "our trying to be astute, to be astute,
unscrupulous, and that sort of thing, when
a senator of the United States eats peanuts
while riding in the street cars. We're
nothing but a dim'd horrid republic, after
all."

One evening a drunkard knocked at the
door of the Morgue. "Who goes there?"
called the guardian. "Ent! it's I," hic-
coughed the drunkard. "Come to see if I
am not in the Morgue. Here it is seven
days that I have not been seen by my
neighbors, and I begin to be a little un-
easy."

Gen. Hancock will occupy the same po-
sition as General Washington after the
fourth of next March.—*Atlanta Constitu-
tion.* This is a serious and deadly view to
take of it. But we all know that General
Washington was a pious man, and his
position ought to be desirable.—*Buffalo
Express.*

A patent medicine advertisement reads
thus: "When a lethargic feeling pervades
your system; when you have a disinclina-
tion to move about; when you have an ab-
solute to exercise, your liver is inactive."
This will be glad tidings to many people
who have always thought they were lazy
when they felt that way. Now they will
know that it was only their liver that was
lazy.—*Middleton Transcript.*

A little North Carolina girl started on
her first voyage late at night, and on
looking out the window in the morning
called her mother in astonishment to see
the front yard full of water.

The last piece of rustic laziness encoun-
tered by out of town correspondents is
that of the man who, being asked what
allied his eyes, answered, "Nuthin'." I sup-
pose I can see well enough with one.
Sometimes I shut one, sometimes I other.

"I'll teach you to lie and steal, and
smoke, and use profane language," said
an irate Galveston parent to his eldest off-
spring, at the same time swinging a good-
sized sapling. "I'll teach you, you young
scamp." "Never mind, father; I know
all them branches already."

We like to preach short sermons just as
much as you like to hear us; but if you
want to have the sermon short, you must
look out for your own sins, for we have
got to name them all before we come to
the application, and the length of the ser-
mon depends entirely upon yourselves.—
E. K. Hale.

They were talking about expenses, says
the Galveston News, and how some men
get rich. Said one: "My butcher and
baker have made money enough out of me
to build themselves splendid houses." Re-
sponded the other: "The bar-keepers I
patronize have built whole blocks out of
what I owe them."

Believers in metempsychosis have had
their faith refreshed by the recent birth of
a child who, upon coming into the world,
made a searching scrutiny of his surround-
ings, and slinking back into the nurse's
arms remarked, "Thank Heaven, at last I
have got myself born into a family that is
comfortably fixed."—*From the French.*

"Saud" is the French for "big money."
—*(Striberville Herald.* Let's send this
round for the benefit of the profession.—
(N. Y. News. Thought is was called sand
because it was sandy to have in one's pocket-
book.—*(Rome Sentinel.* We had an idea
that it was called sand because the
tighter you grip it the faster it runs away.

An Iowa schoolmaster knocked down a
horne's nest to use in illustrating a lec-
ture, but if the remarks he made immedi-
ately after while kiting across the country
were merely those he intended to use in
the lecture, relative to the hornet's nest—
and they certainly referred to the nest—the
discourse was one totally unfit for chil-
dren to hear.

It is very funny that the country mosqui-
toes get such early information of the
coming of the boarder from the city. The
farmer, his wife, children and friends will
swear before you leave home that there is
not a mosquito within six miles of the
place, and when you get there and meet a
few fellow, with his whistle under his
wing, all ready for a little blood, the farmer
will say: "Now, that's funny; we
hain't seen a mosquito before this season.
You must have brought 'em with you."
Boston Globe.

He belonged to the Epicurean club of
Lowell and was enjoying a brief visit at
Lakewood recently. She was from Man-
chester, and they were out with a party
for a moonlight row on the lake. As they
neared the wharf her little hand lay
confidingly in his, but she explained that
she only held it lest he should fall from the
boat and be lost. The rest of the party
thought there was not the slightest danger
of their falling out, on the contrary appear-
ances seemed to indicate that they were
rapidly falling in.

—*There is a story: a party of
wolves a pack; a pack of thieves a gang;
a gang of angels a host; a host of porpoises
a shoal; a shoal of buffaloes a herd; a herd
of children a troop; a troop of partridges a
covey; a covey of beauties a galaxy; a
galaxy of ruffians a horde; a horde of rub-
bish a heap; a heap of oxen a drove; a
drove of blackguards a mob; a mob of
whales a school; a school of worshippers a
congregation; a congregation of engineers a
corps; a corps of robbers a band; a band
of locusts a swarm, and a swarm of people
is called a crowd.*

Minister Noyes says of the French Repu-
blic: "I am not able to see but that the
Republic is growing stronger all the time.
It is a government that represses the peo-
ple in nothing, and it is difficult to show
what they could rebel about. They have
more liberty than they ever had and as
much protection. Improvements are go-
ing on, new buildings are as plentiful as
in Napoleon's best days. The sheepskin-
ning class and the foreign society in Paris
may pine unreasonably for the glided days
of the Second Empire, yet even there very
little is heard. The government is sincere,
and I think its leaders are all honest men."

From the following story, it may be
suspected that the average Texas sheriff is
a little skeptical: "A condemned murder-
er named Wright desired to be baptized.
A Baptist preacher was sent for, and
Wright was taken to Trinity river. But
the sheriff had his suspicions. To him it
seemed most likely that Wright was after
a chance to commit suicide; and so he, too,
accompanied the procession. When they
reached the river, the sheriff tied a rope
about the condemned man, and when the
ceremony finally took place, the sheriff
stood like a fisherman on the bank with
the line in his hand, while the minister
proceeded with the baptism."

Brown is rather a timid man and is de-
voted to the society of ladies. He was
sitting in a certain piazza at Newport last
week, gently bleating, as is his wont,
when letters arrived. "Excuse me a mo-
ment," said the blonde daughter of the
house, "I must read this letter from dear
Evelle. She is bored to death, you know,
at Lebanon, or at some awful place of the
kind." Brown is not a clever man, but he
has a long neck and sharp eyes, and he
observed that the note paper was headed:
"Union club Fifth avenue and Twenty-
first street;" and he immediately asked if
there was a Union club at Lebanon? Brown
left Newport that evening saddest if
not wisest.—*Hon.*

"MEAT MARKET."

"Meat market is a place where there is
things to sell. There is most trade in the
morning and evening, as they butcher
their things in the afternoon. There is two
Meat Market in this place; we trade with
both. Meat Markets are very useful; if it
was not for Meat Market we should have
to butcher our own things. I think all
show the providence of God."

Postage is cheapest in England and the
United States, and costliest in Russia, Ger-
many, Austria, Spain, Italy, Belgium,
Holland and Switzerland. In the order
named.

Canon Farrar looks little over forty years
old, though in reality he is nearer fifty. He
is a grave, thoughtful, studious-looking
man, with a shy, reserved manner, who is
led by, rather than leads, the conversation.
In warm summer days he is to be found
with books of reference beside him, study-
ing in the ancient cloister garden of West-
minster Abbey.

The Queen of Siam and her son were
drowned when sailing in a little Royal
yacht. They were run down by a steamer
and all on board were lost except the
King's Secretary, who, being a good swim-
mer, succeeded in saving himself. On
learning the news of the catastrophe the
King of Siam was so deeply affected that
he fainted in the presence of the Court.

A motto over the portal of our inner
sanctum says: "A true gentleman will
never swear."—*Hackensack Republican.*
That's so. Still, it is not best for a true
gentleman to live at right angles from a
man who is struggling with the accordion.
It is as hard under these circumstances to
be a true gentleman as for Mr. Beecher to
be a Christian after eating a supper of
Welsh rarebit and eucumbers. *N. Y. Con-
Adv.*

An improved method of stopping en-
gines, says the Electrician, has recently
been devised. The main object of the
device is to enable any child or unskilled
person in any part of a mill to stop the
engine in case of accident. The action is
exceedingly simple. By touching a spring
of an electric bell, an electric ball is set in
motion. The ball drops and shuts one of
the valves, which prevents the steam from
escaping, and the engine is brought to a
standstill.

The editor of the New Haven Register
has been on a vacation, and thus philoso-
phizes: "Home looks sort of tame to you
now; but after you have sweltered in an
attic up country or had your face skinned
by the breezes and reflecting sun of the
seashore, and after you have chewed
green cucumbers in the one place and sole-
leather clams in the other you will long
for one day at home, where you can sleep
with plenty of fresh air from the window,
eat reliable, nourishing food, sit with
your feet on the mantel-piece and be
social. Any other place is a fool to home."

A correspondent, in writing about the
ignorance of many people in regard to the
law pertaining to coroners in cases of
death by accident, violence, or other cause,
says: "A decision is not so much needed
as common sense. Some years ago a man
in Salem attempted to commit suicide by
hanging. The person who found him gave
an alarm. The neighbors ran in, among
them a shoemaker with a knife in his
hand. 'Take hold of him and hold him
up,' said the shoemaker; 'I am going
to cut the rope.' 'But you mustn't touch
him till the corner comes; it's against the
law.' 'I don't care for the law,' said the
shoemaker; 'I shall cut him down.' He
did so, and the man's life was saved.
Had the shoemaker been as foolish as the
others, the man would have hung till after
he was dead."

Agricultural.

Potatoes first ready sale at 2 cents per
pound.

James M. Amoux's oat crop will reach
almost 3,000 bushels.

Montana oats are retailing for 3 cents per
pound in the Benton market.

Dexter's threshing is turning out grain in
such quantities that the yield surprises the
grangers.

Potatoes are arriving in town quite freely
from the Teton, Highwood and Missou-
ri valley farms.

August Dinsey, of the Missouri valley,
was in town on Saturday with a wagon
load of melons, squashes and tomatoes.

The Choteau farmers are in favor of
booming the river, as it will be the means
of furnishing them with cheap fencing.

Sun river farmers have harvested good
crops, but little wheat has been raised, in
consequence of the poor condition of the
Sun river mill.

The wheat crop of the country, this
year, is estimated at four hundred and
seventy to four hundred and ninety mil-
lions of bushels.

Notwithstanding the dry season the
farmers of the Missouri river bottoms and
Teton valley, have raised excellent crops
of grain and vegetables.

The bench lands between Benton and
the Teton are well adapted to the raising
of grain. If fencing could be procured
several farms would be started there next
year.

The Highwood and Shonkin bench lands
are attracting the attention of wheat grow-
ing farmers. The assurance of a flouring
mill next year, will induce them to plant
wheat in large quantities.

The ranches along the Shonkin and
Highwood which were recently visited by
hail, have produced a second growth of
grain and vegetables, and would yield a
good crop if the season would continue fa-
vorable for a few weeks longer.

The Gros Ventres Indian farm at Fort
Belknap has produced under the manage-
ment of Major Lincoln, large crops of po-
tatoes, corn, rutabagas, cabbages, grain,
etc. The farm is located on the bottom
lands of Milk river valley; the soil is deep
and loamy, and crops of the best kind are
raised without irrigation. The entire val-
ley of Milk river covering an area of over
1,000 square miles, is capable of support-
ing thousands of prosperous farmers and
stock-raisers and the quicker the same is
opened for settlement the better.

ABOUT IRRIGATION.

Much attention is now given to the sub-
ject of irrigation in that vast region lying
between the Mississippi River and the
Rocky Mountains, and there is no reason
to doubt that the day is not far distant
when what is known as the Great Ameri-
can Desert will for the most part be open
under cultivation. In these dis-
tricts where rivers and lakes can be utilized
for supplying water to the parched and
barren lands, we may confidently expect to
see a system of canals constructed, which
will render nearly every foot of soil pro-
ductive. The Mormons in Utah by this
method of irrigation have made their lands
wonderfully fertile, and we have witnessed

its benefits, in dry seasons, in the agricul-
tural regions of our own Territory. The
experiment of sinking wells and pumping
the water on the fields, or conducting it by
means of pipes, has never been tried in
Montana, but persons who have experi-
mented in a small way in other parts of
the Union have been convinced that the
experiment will prove satisfactory. Ex-
tensive irrigation, of course, involves a
large expenditure of money, but the bring-
ing of waste land under cultivation will in
the end far more than repay the probable
cost of all the wells which may be required
to furnish an abundance of water. Irriga-
tion by wells, or by methods other than
the overflowing of land by simply cutting
channels or ditches, is not a new idea or
even a modern one. On the plains of As-
syria and Babylonia water was raised from
canals by machines, which consisted of
rude buckets worked by oxen, in much
the same manner still practiced on the
banks of the Tiber and Euphrates. Among
the ancient Egyptians irrigation was per-
formed not only with water flowing di-
rectly from the Nile, but also with water
raised out of it, or as was often the case,
from wells. The most ancient machine
was the sweep, or bucket, suspended from
a balance pole, such as was generally used
in villages in this country years ago, and
is occasionally met with even at the present
day. Water is now raised from the
Nile by Persian wheels for the purpose of
irrigation. If water can be found at any
reasonable depth on the bench lands of
Montana, and on this point there is little
room for doubt, the certainty of rendering
productive a vast area of country known
to be capable of yielding immense stores of
cereals should be an inducement to capital-
ists, as well as the Government, to sink
wells for irrigation. The Government has
taken one step in this direction, and we
may expect it will not be the only one, if
the results are even moderately satisfac-
tory. At the last session of Congress \$50,
000 was appropriated for the purpose of en-
abling the Commissioner of Agriculture to
procure data touching the agricultural
needs of the unproductive sections of the
Union, with a view to the reclamation of
waste lands lying in certain Western States
and Territories. The appropriation bill also
authorized the Commissioner to contract
for the sinking of two artesian wells east
of the Rocky Mountains, the wells to be
sunk at such places as the Commissioner
might designate. The Secretary of the In-
terior was authorized to declare the reser-
vation of four square miles around each of
the wells in order that the experiment of
irrigation might be thoroughly tested. Twenty
thousand dollars was appropriated to
carry out the object of this provision.
Commissioner Le Duc is now selecting
sites for wells. There is no reason why he
should not come to Montana to look for
them. We have here not only the most
promising lands for experiment, but lands
that are known to be unusually productive,
and that would be cultivated if the water
supply was reliable at the proper seasons
of the year. If the sinking of artesian
wells meets the highest expectations, of
course there will be no need of sinking
other wells from which the water will not
flow upon the lands. But the experiment
should not, and probably will not in case
the project of artesian wells proves to be a
failure. If water is found within fifty feet
of the surface, wells should be dug. By
means of the improved machinery of these
days water can be raised from wells at
small expense. This machinery would
run almost all winter—as there is
always plenty of wind in this region. The
cost of irrigation by this method would, of
course, be great where large tracts of land
are to be watered, compared with artesian
wells, but would it not pay in the end? It
is not proposed that the Government should
go into this business extensively at first,
but merely make experiments and report
the results. The feasibility of the plan
once determined, irrigation of our fertile
bench lands might be left to private enter-
prise. In time the desert will bloom. If
the Assyrians and Egyptians can water
their lands by means of buckets on bal-
anced poles, why can't Montanians do so with
wind pumps, where both wind and pumps
are cheap?

KANSAS—Soil, Crops and Rainfall.

Union the head of "Kansas Notes" in
your paper of the 26th inst., reported by
H. M. L., Phillips County, Kansas, I
see that their crops are nearly a total
failure, and, as a natural consequence,
your readers (outside of Kansas) will in-
clude the whole State. Now, Mr. Editor,
that is not the case with this part of
Kansas. We have an abundance of every-
thing, and the way we raise it is as fol-
lows: We have about 20,000 acres of
land under irrigating ditches, and can
use water just when the crops should have
it. Besides, we have minus enough to grow
ordinary crops, such as fodder crops of a
kind, grass, etc., and should we happen
to have a long dry spell, we have our
irrigating ditches to depend upon. As I
have a record of rainfall from the 14th of
May, I will give it: May 14th, 15th, 19th,
21st, 25th, and 28th, all good rains; June
10th, 18th, 25th, 28th, July 12th, 16th, 17th,
20th, August 15th, 20th, 22th, 27th, 28th.
Our July and August rains were the
heaviest and did the most good.

You will see by the above that our
water supply is sufficient. I can safely
say that our soil is equal to any in the
country, and our crops (this the second
season) are as good as I have ever seen.
Onions sowed about the 15th of May
measure 10 to 13 inches in circumference
and still growing. Sweet potatoes, Irish
potatoes, vines of all kinds, and anything
that will grow in any country except the
Southern States, will grow here to per-
fection and never fail as long as we have
water in our ditches. Without irrigation,
I would be compelled to write as H. M. L.,
as far as general farming is concerned.
But for stock, we have the finest range
west of the Missouri River, especially for
sheep, which have been thoroughly tested
during the last year. Eight or ten thou-
sand were brought in last fall and wintered
on the prairie without any feed and the
increase will average 90 per cent; some
small herds average 110 per cent.

Our sheep range is land which can not
be irrigated and will be open for sheep for
years to come. I think we have about
200 square miles of such land, and any
person on wishing to come here and go
into the sheep business will find plenty of
room. There is an abundance of Govern-
ment land open for settlement of which
any person over 21 years old can secure
at least \$20 acres and take it where he will
have plenty of range.

D. R. MENCKE,
Garden City, Kas., August 30, 1884.

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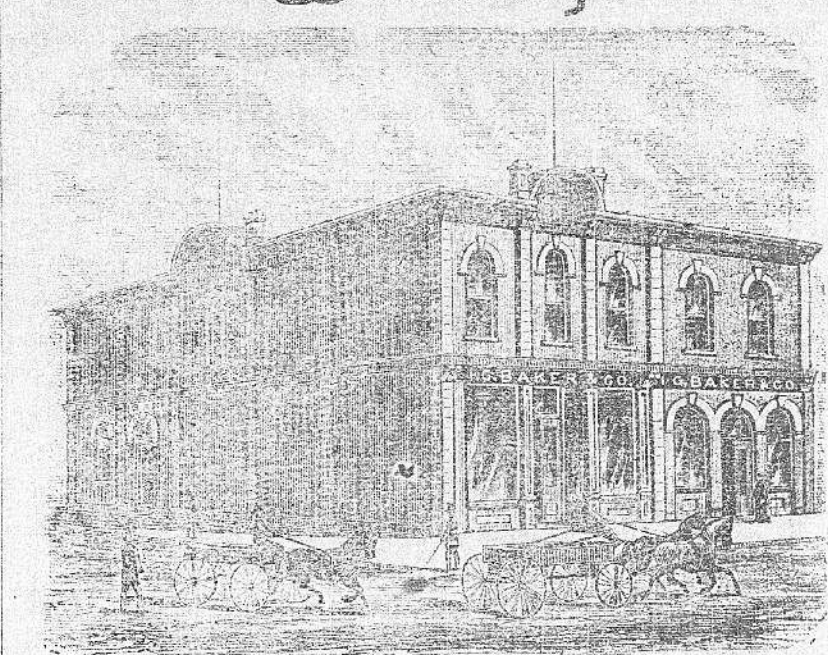
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With the chills and fever, the victim of malaria
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which not only breaks up the most aggravated at-
tacks, but prevents their recurrence. It is in-
finitely preferable to quinine, not only because it
does the business far more thoroughly, but also
on account of its perfect wholesomeness and in-
vincible action upon the entire system.
For sale by all druggists and dealers generally.D. R. MENCKE,
Garden City, Kas., August 30, 1884.I. G. BAKER, St. Louis, Mo.
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